

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /109 W
-----201220Z 024455 /10

R 201139Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7529

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EEC, GW

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER SPEAKS ON MAJOR
EC OBJECTIVES

1. SUMMARY: SPEAKING AT SAARBRUECKEN ON APRIL 16
AT THE OPENING OF THE SAAR INDUSTRY FAIR, FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER LAUDED THE PROGRESS MADE IN
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION AND REVIEWED THE
THREE ISSUES WHICH HE INDICATED WERE IN THE
FOREGROUND OF PRESENT EUROPEAN POLICY: REGAINING
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OF ECONOMIC STABILITY AND FULL EMPLOYMENT, DIRECT
ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, AND EC
ENLARGEMENT. THIS SPEECH MAY WELL HAVE BEEN
DESIGNED TO COUNTER THE GROWING WAVE OF PUBLIC
CRITICISM OF THE COMMUNITY, FOR IT WAS
REMARKABLY UPBEAT IN TONE. ITS MOST NOTEWORTHY
ASPECT WAS THE IMPORTANCE GENSCHER ACCORDED TO

THE ENLARGEMENT ISSUE AND HIS INDICATION OF GERMAN SUPPORT FOR ACCESSION BY SPAIN AS WELL AS GREECE AND PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY.

2. STATE OF THE COMMUNITY. GENSCHER ARGUED THAT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE COMMUNITY DO NOT REFLECT A CRISIS IN EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, BUT ARE INSTEAD AN EXPRESSION OF THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC CRISIS. BY GIVING INDISPENSIBLE SUPPORT TO WEAKER MEMBER STATES AND BY ENSURING THAT THE COMMON MARKET REMAINED OPEN, HE CONCLUDED THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS STOOD THE TRIAL IN THIS CRISIS. IN SECTORS OTHER THAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, IT HAS EVEN MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL FUND, EXPANSION OF THE SOCIAL FUND AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY LOANS HAVE MARKED IMPORTANT MILESTONES.

3. EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION. GENSCHER STATED THAT THE (ECONOMIC) CRISIS HAS REVEALED HOW LITTLE EACH INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN STATE IS IN A POSITION TO DO IN DEFENDING ITS INTERESTS ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. STRESSING THAT THE LIBERAL EUROPE OF THE NINE MUST PLAY ITS ROLE IN WORLD POLICY, GENSCHER CITED IN PARTICULAR HUMAN RIGHTS, DETENTE, THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND DISCUSSION OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES. UNCLASSIFIED

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4. ECONOMIC STABILITY AND FULL EMPLOYMENT. GENSCHER INDICATED THAT RESTORATION OF STABILITY AND FULL EMPLOYMENT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL OF THE COMMUNITY. HE NOTED THAT ESSENTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN ESTABLISHING ON THE EUROPEAN LEVEL A SYSTEM CORRESPONDING TO THE GERMAN "CONCERTED ACTION" PROGRAM, I.E., TRILATERAL CONFERENCES OF GOVERNMENTS, TRADE UNIONS AND FIRMS. IN ADDITION, GENSCHER POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE AND THE FRG HAVE AGREED TO INCREASE THEIR ENDEAVORS TO COORDINATE THEIR ECONOMIC POLICIES, AS WELL AS TO SUBMIT CONCRETE PROPOSALS TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR HARMONIZING THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE NINE. GENSCHER ALSO DEFENDED THE PRESENT FRG ECONOMIC POLICY STANCE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS GERMAN GROWTH HAS MADE IN STRENGTHENING THE WORLD ECONOMY. HE BELIEVED THAT THE COMMUNITY

COULD BEST CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORATION OF
STABLE GROWTH BY EMPLOYING ITS STRUCTURAL
INSTRUMENTS - THE EIB, THE REGIONAL FUND,
THE SOCIAL FUND, AND THE AGRICULTURAL FUND -
IN A COORDINATED MANNER TO REDUCE ECONOMIC
DISPARITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

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5. DIRECT ELECTIONS. GENSCHER DESCRIBED THE
DIRECT ELECTIONS AS AN IMPORTANT MEANS FOR
RESTORING ENTHUSIASM FOR EUROPE. HE CITED
RECENT POLLS WHICH INDICATED THAT 80 OF THOSE
POLLED IN THE MEMBER STATES CARED LITTLE OR

NOT AT ALL FOR COMMUNITY MATTERS. HE EXPRESSED
SUPPORT FOR EARLY RATIFICATION OF THE DIRECT
ELECTION PROVISIONS BY ALL MEMBER STATE
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PARLIAMENTS, SO THAT THE ELECTIONS COULD
TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED IN 1978.

6. COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT. GENSCHER EXPLAINED
THAT THE NEW LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES OF SOUTHERN
EUROPE, GREECE, PORTUGAL, AND SPAIN, ARE
STRIVING FOR ACCESS INTO THE EC. HE WARNED THAT
THIS EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNITY WILL CONFRONT
IT WITH WIDE-RANGING ADDITIONAL TASKS, WHICH
ARE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED, AND THAT
FINANCIAL SACRIFICES WILL BE REQUIRED. HOWEVER,
HE STRESSED THAT THE COMMUNITY MUST REMAIN OPEN
TO ALL DEMOCRACIES OF EUROPE IF IT IS TO REMAIN
FAITHFUL TO ITS IDEALS.

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